

ROCKVILLE

Reports

City of Rockville Newsletter

Vol. 47 No. 2 February 2001



First Steps Mentoring Program Reaches Out to Local Youth

Mentor: A loyal friend and advisor.

Last fall, the City of Rockville, along with Community Psychiatric Clinic (CPC) Health, embarked on the *First Steps Mentoring Program* – an interactive mentoring program that matches boys between the ages of 11 and 15 from the Lincoln Park area with mentors.

“The program was created because there was a definite need to address this gender specific age group,” explained Mandy Smith, a Youth, Family, and Community Services Specialist for the City. “Children at this age are at risk for negative behaviors, and before our program, there wasn’t one of this nature available.”

It all began when CPC Health received a grant to provide a mentoring program in this area. They contacted Smith, and the collaboration was underway. In September, the City and CPC Health began recruiting mentors and meeting with youth. The program kicked off in October and currently has five pairs of mentors and mentorees.

The mentors and their mentorees meet once a week for approximately two hours. According to Andy Reichert, a mentor in the program, the mentoring has been fairly structured so far with participants meeting at the Lincoln Park Community Center.

“About half of our time together is spent with schoolwork, and then the other half is having fun together by playing basketball or ping pong, or taking part in other activities that the center offers,” said Reichert.

In the future, however, that is going to change. Every other week, the mentor will have the opportunity to meet with his or her mentoree in another setting. Reichert thinks

this will really change the dynamics of the relationships that are forming.

The goal of the *First Steps Mentoring Program* is to help the children involved improve their self-esteem, to provide them with a safe place to express feelings, to educate them about the dangers of substance abuse, and to help them explore different career opportunities.

“I would really recommend the program to other kids my age,” said Matt Butler, a mentoree in the program. “Having a mentor has given me an edge that helps me accomplish my goals.”

But it’s not only the mentoree who benefits from the program. According to Reichert, the personal rewards he’s received from being involved have been great. Serving as a mentor has made him feel that he is truly giving back to the community, and it seems that sense of giving is contagious.

“By being part of the mentoring program, I’ve learned how important it is to help others,” said Butler. “My mentor has taken time out of her busy life to help me, and that makes me want to return the favor to others.”

Adults can get involved in the mentoring program by volunteering to serve as a mentor, give presentations about professional or life experiences, conduct sports or other types of workshops or clinics, or organize field trips. The program also is still seeking youth in the Lincoln Park area who would like to have a mentor.

“Once a week for two hours is such a small time commitment to make for such a good cause,” said Reichert. ❖

CALL **301-309-3077** FOR MORE INFO

Watts Branch Watershed Study Draws to Close

Two and a half years of hard work by the Watts Branch Watershed Study Partnership, made up of residents and City staff, will come to a head when they present their findings to the Mayor and Council at a work session on Jan. 29.

When completed, the Watts Branch Watershed Study will contain recommendations for a 10-year plan to construct stormwater management (SWM) facilities, as well as plans for the implementation of streambank stabilization and embarking on a public information campaign to inform citizens on how to best protect their streams.

“The Watts Branch Study has been developed in concert with the needs and wants of citizens,” said Ferguson. “The residents who took part in the partnership really acted as a sounding board. As a result, the projects we have come up with are better projects.”

After the work session, the Mayor and Council will consider the study recommendations for approval at a regular meeting in late February or early March. During this time, citizens are encouraged to contact the Mayor and Council by phone (301-309-3310), by e-mail (mayor_council@ci.rockville.md.us), or by letter (111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850) to express their opinions about the study recommendations. Residents also can speak at Citizens Forums and Mayor and Council Drop-Ins during this time period.

During those weeks between the work session and the final consideration, the Mayor and Council will decide if the City will proceed with the study recommendations.

If approved, projects will go through a detailed design phase in which they will be fine tuned. Residents will have opportunities to give further input during these phases.

“These projects are very important if we want to reduce the erosion and save trees in our city,” said Paul O’Brien, a resident who served as a member of the partnership. “We’ve already lost numerous trees, and without these projects, we stand to lose a lot more.”

It is estimated that if these solutions are not pursued, the Watts Branch Stream could widen up to 400 percent in some locations, taking with it trees and tons of soil into the Chesapeake Bay.

“I look at the creek each day. I’ve seen the erosion. I’ve seen the flooding. We need to do what we can do to protect it from further damage,” said O’Brien. ❖

CALL **301-309-3217** FOR MORE INFO

Calendar of Events

City Events

2 Friday Family Frolics; See pg. 3

2,3 National Chamber Orchestra; 8 p.m.; F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre; \$33 (center), \$25 (side), and \$17 (far side); Call 301-762-8580

4 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery Opening; 1-4 p.m.; F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre; Diane L. Bugash (acrylic paintings), Malcolm J. Hally (sculpture), and Maremi Hoof (mixed media paintings); Runs through Feb. 27; Artist talk, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.; Call 301-309-3354

4 Glenview Mansion Sunday Afternoon Concert; 2 p.m.; Glenview Mansion Conservatory; Monumental Brass (varied pop repertoire); Free; Call 301-309-3354

8,9,10,16,17, 22,23,24

Victorian Lyric Opera Company; 8 p.m.; F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre; *The Mikado*; \$12 general admission and \$10 students; Call 301-879-0220

10 Valentine’s Day Tea with Queen of Hearts; See pg. 3

14 Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting; 7 p.m.; City Hall; Call 301-309-3340

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Millennium Time Capsule

The City’s Millennium Celebration culminated on Jan. 1 with the enshrinement of a Millennium Time Capsule in Courthouse Square Park in Rockville Town Center.

During the year 2000, the City celebrated its entry into the 21st century with a variety of events including: the



Representatives from the Millennium Committee and the Mayor and Council prepare to bury the time capsule.

creation of the Millennium Quilt; the signing of the Millennium Signature Books; the development of the history of the city entitled *Rockville: Portrait of a City*; and more.

The City would like to extend a special thanks to members of the Millennium Committee, who helped make the millennium memorable for the residents of Rockville.



Mayor Rose Krasnow and Committee member John Moser cover the capsule with dirt following the ceremony.

Find Budget Information on the City’s Web Site: www.ci.rockville.md.us.

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19 President's Day; City Hall closed

23 Dance Away the Blues; See pg. 3

23,24,25 Mediation Training; See pg. 3

24 Off-Leash Testing; 10 a.m.; Middle Ln. parking lot; Call 301-309-3115

25 Rockville Concert Band; 3 p.m.; F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre; Free; Call 301-309-3340

For more information about City events, call 301-309-3322. To register for Recreation and Parks' programs, call 301-309-3340.

Imagine Rockville

20 Town Center Action Team; 7 p.m.; Red Brick Courthouse, Room 105

To join an Imagine Rockville Action Team or to find out about meetings, call the hotline at 301-315-6556 or visit the City's Web site at www.ci.rockville.md.us.

For Seniors

1 Veterans Group Meeting; 10 a.m.; Activity #8513; Register by Jan. 24; Free

7 Birthday Party; 1:30 p.m.; Activity #8535; Register by Feb. 1; Free

7,13,21 Blood Pressure Screening; 10 a.m.; Free

8 Keeping your Gastrointestinal Tract Fit; 1 p.m.; Free

9 Heart-Shaped Wall Pocket; 1:30 p.m.; Activity #8517; Register by Jan. 29; \$21 for members, \$26 for non-members

13,20 Investment Fundamentals; 10:30 a.m.; Free

15 Hearing Aid Tune-Ups; 1:15 p.m.; Free

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Planning Q&A: What is a Zoning or Planning Ordinance?

The Department of Community Planning and Development Services (CPDS) has lots of answers to frequently asked questions. A list of the most frequent inquiries regarding Planning and Zoning has been compiled, and questions and answers will appear in *Rockville Reports* and on the City's Web site (www.ci.rockville.md.us) periodically throughout the year. If you have questions you think would be good ones to answer in this format, please submit them to the CPDS staff at City Hall (301-309-3200) or e-mail them to lruther@ci.rockville.md.us.

What is a Zoning and Planning Ordinance? Can it be amended?

A Zoning Ordinance, as it is most commonly referred to, is Chapter 25 of the Laws of Rockville. The ordinance reflects the policy guidance of the Master Plan and governs the development of property in order to promote health, safety, and the general welfare of the community. The ordinance regulates and restricts the height, number of stories, and size of buildings and other structures that can be built. Sections of the ordinance also define the percentage of a lot that may be occupied, how much off-street parking is required, and how dense a development can be. The ordinance further regulates the use of buildings, signs, structures, and land for trade, industry, residences, or other purposes.

Amendments to the ordinance are called text amendments. Anyone who believes a change to the ordinance is justified may apply to have the Mayor and Council consider a change. The Mayor and Council also may sponsor a text amendment when they determine that changes may be needed. Text amendments may create new zones, change standards governing uses in particular zones, or change the amount of parking required for a specific use. The Mayor and Council make the final decision on whether to change the ordinance as requested. ❖

CALL 301-309-3204 FOR MORE INFO

2001 Rockville U Begins in February

The next session of the popular Rockville University is scheduled to begin on Feb. 22. Interested residents are invited to come get a "behind the scenes" look at the City and its workings.

Rockville U is an 10-week program that includes classes on Rockville's history, the Council-Manager form of government, the City's departments, the planning process, neighborhoods, and more. There also will be a class that will discuss the many ways students can give back to their communities – by joining boards and commissions, becoming a member of their civic association, helping a non-profit agency, etc. The classes, which take place on Thursday nights and some Saturday mornings, involve some lecturing, field trips, hands-on learning, and even a little homework.

Rockville U is open to anyone age 16 or older who lives, works, or goes to school in Rockville. You must register in advance, and space is limited.

There are Rockville U brochures, which include a registration form, available at City Hall or by calling Rockville's Neighborhood Resources division. ❖

CALL 301-309-3247 FOR MORE INFO

Master Plan: Phase II Begins

As the development of the City's Master Plan continues, it is the goal of the Mayor and Council and the Planning Commission to incorporate as much input from the community as possible. As the plan enters its second phase, a variety of opportunities for residents to voice their opinion will be scheduled.

The Rockville Master Plan will articulate a broad vision for Rockville's future, direct all development activities in the city, and guide the City's capital improvement projects.

During the first phase of the master plan revision process, the Planning Commission developed draft goals and policies for each of the subject areas in the plan. In spring 2000, three focus groups took place where participants reviewed and commented on the goals. Then in June, an open house took place so that the City could gather more input from residents. The Mayor and Council and the Planning Commission then reviewed this information in July and made changes to the goals and policies accordingly.

The second phase of the revision process will include developing background information and drafting recommendations to implement the goals and policies that have been identified. This phase will continue throughout the winter and spring. As it progresses, information about upcoming public input sessions will be posted on the City's Web site (www.ci.rockville.md.us).

Questions or comments about the Master Plan can be mailed to: Marian Staye, Community Planning and Development Services, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. You also can send faxes to 301-309-0523 or e-mails to mstaye@ci.rockville.md.us. ❖

CALL 301-309-3200 FOR MORE INFO

Town Center Master Plan Moves Ahead

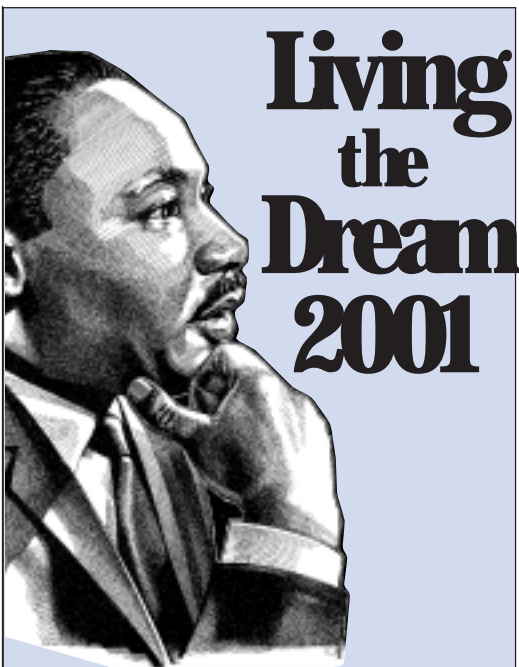
As 2000 came to an end, work on the City's Town Center Master Plan got into full swing.

In December, the Town Center Advisory Group, made up of residents and business owners, met with the City's consultant. The consultants presented basic concepts for organizing the planning of Town Center, including creating subdistricts and a civic area. The advisory group reviewed these concepts and provided feedback, which will be incorporated into more detailed recommendations.

In addition to the master plan, here's a look at what is happening in Town Center:

- Construction is expected to begin on the first building of Rockville Metro Plaza, being developed by Foulger-Pratt at the corner of Middle Ln. and Rockville Pike. When completed, the three-building project will include 620,000 sq. ft. of offices with ground floor retail.
- The State Highway Administration's options for intersection improvements to the Rockville Pike/Middle Ln. and Rockville Pike/Rt. 28 intersections will be presented to the public at a workshop scheduled for April. The exact date, time, and place will be announced. ❖

CALL 301-309-3244 FOR MORE INFO



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

On Jan. 15, residents gathered at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. At the ceremony, Cindy Buddington, Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Commission on People with Disabilities, received the F. Michael Taff Award, and Madelyn Estrada, a student at Richard Montgomery High School, received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award.

The keynote speaker at the celebration was *Washington Post* writer and columnist Courtland Milloy who engaged the audience on the issue of faith while overcoming obstacles. The event also included performances by Souls in Motion, Signs of Music, the CHARACTER COUNTS!™ Theatre Troupe, Maryvale's Finest, Daryl Davis with Geraldine Payton-Brown, and the Faith Community Baptist Church Gospel Chorus.



Souls in Motion got the celebration off to an memorable start with their exciting drumming style.



The Faith Community Baptist Church Gospel Choir brought the festivities to a close with "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."

In Brief

Free Income Tax Assistance

Rockville is offering free income tax assistance to low to moderate income residents of the city beginning Feb. 6 and running through April 10. It takes place on Tuesdays, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., at 32 Courthouse Sq. Appointments are required. Tax assistance will be provided by volunteers who have extensive backgrounds in tax preparation. Electronic filing also will be available.

CALL 301-468-4179 FOR MORE INFO

Mediation Training

Rockville's Community Mediation Program will sponsor a free, 20-hour basic mediation training in February at Rockville City Hall in the Mayor and Council Chambers. It will take place on: Friday, Feb. 23, 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 24, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participants must attend all three days to receive a certificate and must be City of Rockville residents to participate in the training.

CALL 301-309-3308 FOR MORE INFO

Summer Camps

It's that time of year again – time to start thinking about summer camps. The City's camp guide will be mailed to City residents in early February. Here are some dates to mark on your calendar: Feb. 14 – Resident mail-in registration; March 5 – Resident walk-in registration; June 25 – Camps begin. Rockville's summer camps usually run in four, two-week sessions with the exception of specialty camps and clinics, which usually run in one-week sessions.

CALL 301-309-3340 FOR MORE INFO

Inclement Weather Policy

Wondering if a City meeting or program has been cancelled because of weather? Tune in to WMAL (630 AM) or WRQZ (107.3 FM), or WJLA (Ch. 7), WUSA (Ch. 9), or WRC (Ch. 4), or FOX (Ch. 5) for cancellation information. For Recreation and Parks programs, you also may call: league play – 301-309-3333; afternoon, evening, or Saturday and Sunday programs – 301-309-3336; or special events – 301-309-3334. The following policies apply: when Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) close due to weather, all Rockville Recreation and Parks programs are cancelled; if MCPS open late, Recreation and Parks programs are cancelled for the morning; and if MCPS close early, all afternoon and evening programs are cancelled; and if schools don't close, but a weather emergency develops, a decision will be made on afternoon programs by 2 p.m. and announced on the message lines. For league play, a decision will be made by 3 p.m., and for special events, the policy varies.

Firewood and Wood Chips

You can get free firewood and wood chips at the City's Public Works facility, 14625 Rothgeb Dr., in the upper lot.

Snow Removal

Just a reminder that the City's snow ordinance requires that snow be removed from sidewalks, steps, driveways, parking spaces, and similar paved areas for public use (including access ramps and curbs) within 24 hours after a snow fall of three inches or less, and within 48 hours after a snowfall of more than three inches, to provide a safe, unobstructed, passable path that is 36-inches wide. Ice must be removed or treated within 24 hours, and surfaces must be treated to prevent re-freezing. Information about which sidewalks the City maintains is available at the Inspection Services Division at City Hall. Senior citizens or people with disabilities who need assistance with snow removal should call 301-309-3050 or 301-309-3261.

CALL 301-309-3261 FOR MORE INFO

Spare Bikes

Do you have a spare bike that you don't use? The City is gathering useable bikes and working with area bike shops and scout troops to perform the minor repairs needed to make them "rideable" once again. The City will accept all usable bikes, especially children sizes, that only need minor repairs. Simply drop off your bike at the City of Rockville Farmers' Market, located in the parking lot on Middle Ln. (behind the Magruder's Shopping Center), on the first Sunday of each month from between 2 and 5 p.m. At Rockville's Bike Safety Days, which will take place in May, these bikes will be given to Rockville residents in need of a bike along with helmets and safety training. Watch *Rockville Reports* and *The Rockville Channel* for the exact date, time, and place of the event.

CALL 301-315-7596 FOR MORE INFO

Tea with the Queen of Hearts

Rockville invites you to attend a Valentine's Day Tea with the Queen of Hearts on Feb. 10, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. Enjoy stories, crafts, and refreshments such as the *queen of tarts* and *drink me tea*. The cost is free if you have a Twinbrook Center ID or \$5 per child.

CALL 301-315-5760 FOR MORE INFO

Friday Family Frolics

Enjoy an evening of family fun at Rockville's Friday Family Frolics on Feb. 2, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. The free event will include family entertainment, arts and crafts, and board games. An adult must accompany children younger than 14 years.

CALL 301-309-3340 FOR MORE INFO

Dance Away the Blues

Put on your dancin' shoes and cut a rug with Rockville on Feb. 23, from 8 to 10 p.m., at the Rockville Senior Center. There will be dancing to taped music and free ballroom dancing instruction (by Paul Mola) periodically through the evening. The cost is \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. You must be 18 years or older to attend.

CALL 301-309-3340 FOR MORE INFO

Free Yoga Course

Achieve your own physical, mental, and emotional balance with a free, eight-week course of Sahaja Yoga. It will begin on Jan. 29 and take place on Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at 32 Courthouse Sq. It will continue as long as an interest is shown. Yoga helps to: improve general health; relieve the symptoms of stress; neutralize addictions; improve communication skills; improve concentration and focus; and enhance self-esteem, self-confidence, and inner security.

CALL 301-309-3077 FOR MORE INFO

Strengthening Families

Rockville's Strengthening Families program is a free, 16-week program for parents with children between the ages of 7 and 11. Parents learn how to improve family relations and parenting skills and increase the good behavior of their children. Children learn how to understand their feelings; resist peer pressure; comply with parental rules; handle anger; and deal with criticism.

CALL 301-309-3390 FOR MORE INFO

Thank You

The City would like to thank the Rockville Power Squadron and K-B Toys of Montgomery Mall for their continued support of the Santa's Helpers program. During the 2000 holiday season, more than 200 children received toys through this program.

Para Ud.

Limpieza de Nieve

Acuérdese, que las leyes de la Ciudad de Rockville indican que los habitantes tienen que limpiar la nieve de las aceras, los escalones, los estacionamientos de automóviles, y también de otras áreas pavimentadas tales como las rampas de acceso para las personas necesitadas. Se tiene que cumplir con este deber dentro de 24 horas si la nevada consiste de 3 pulgadas o menos y dentro de 48 horas si la nevada es de 3 pulgadas o más. La limpieza debe garantizar un paso de 36 pulgadas. Se debe de quitar el hielo dentro de 24 horas, y se le debe deber hacer un tratamiento a la superficie para prevenir que se congele de nuevo. Las personas mayores o otras personas necesitadas que requieren ayuda para limpiar la nieve pueden llamar al 301-309-3050 o al 301-309-3261.



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Rockville Reports is the official publication of the Mayor and Council, published monthly at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850-2364. It is delivered to all residents of Rockville. Deadline for news is the first day of the preceding month. Phone 301-309-3322.

Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the ADA Coordinator at 301-309-3300; TTY 301-309-3187.

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28 **Consumer Survival Guide to Auto Maintenance and Repair;** 1 p.m.; Activity #8504; Register by Feb. 20; Free

Activities take place at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Dr., unless noted. For more information, call 301-309-3025. All programs with an activity number require an in-person or mail-in registration.

For Teens
2,9,16,23 **Friday Night Ski Club;** 3-10:30 p.m.; Ski Liberty, Mercersburg, Penn.; Pick-up and drop-off at Robert Frost Middle School; Ski Club members only

4 **Civiteens Trip to Made By You;** 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; \$15 for pottery, \$15 for lunch; Civiteen members only

7 **Teen Club Ice Skating and Starbucks Trip;** 12:15-3 p.m.; \$10 for Teen Club members, \$15 for non-members

9,23 **Robert Frost Teen Club Dance;** 7:30-10 p.m.; \$2 for Teen Club members, \$5 for non-members; Robert Frost students only

10 **Civiteens Birthday Party;** 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Elwood Smith Community Center; \$15; Civiteen members only

18 **Civiteens Trip to West End Dinner Theatre;** 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; \$29; Civiteen members only

19 **Teen Club Snow Tubing Trip to Coalfont;** 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; \$15 for Teen Club members, \$20 for non-members

For more information, call the Teen Program Coordinator at 301-309-3345.

